testosterone levels with ageing. These changes are quite subtle.

Money spent on purchase of Spongestone Gels

3280. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of money has been spent for the purchase of spongestone gels and they are lying unused; and

(b) whether any action has been taken against the persons who are responsible for such purchase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) There is no report of excess purchase of songestonegel from any of the Government Hospitals in Delhi except G.B. Pant Hospital. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that the matter has been referred to an 'Expert Committee' for investigation.

Menace of Quacks

3281. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a recent survey, nearly 33% of the total medical practitioners in the National Capital have been found to be quacks; number of such quacks all over the country;

(b) effective steps taken by the Government to check the growing menance of quacks practitioners in Allopathic medicine in the country;

(c) whether Government propose to enact a low to prohibit and punish such persons; and

(d) whether Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP) cartificates are being awarded by fictitious and unqualified institutions operating from motor garages, if so, the action taken against such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No such survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) and (c) Penel provisions already exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 as well as in the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to the effect that no person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on the State Medical Register shall practice medicine in any State and any person contravening this provision shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with find which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both. The Government of India had advised the State Governments/U.Ts. to take action against unqualified practitioners.

(d) No information about institutions operating from motor garages has been received.

Development of an Error free Method to Detect AIDS

3282. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India have developed an error-free method to detect the deadly AIDS virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been patented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) An

attempt is being made by the Department of Bio-Technology and Indian Council of Medical Research to develop an error-free kit for detection of AIDS Virus. Uptill now three systems namely (i) A Western immuno blot using whole virus lysate (Indian Isolates) at the Cancer Research Institute, Mumbai (ii) an Elia using synthetic peptides at the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi and (iii) An agglutination based assay utilising a drop of blood from suspected individual and re-combination reagents are being tried. They have been evaluated at the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Calcutta, Post Graduate Institute for Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, National AIDS Research Institute, Pune and Christian Medical College, Vellore and Phase I reports are available which say Western Immuno Blot using the whole virus lysate is 100% sensitive and 98% specific. The other two systems namely Elisa and Agglutination have high degree of sensitivity (99% and 98% respectively) and specificity (98% and 95% respectively). Phase II of the Validation is now being attempted.

(c) and (d) The Technology for the development of recombinant reagents for testing of HIV I & II virus with the single drop blood has been patented. Efforts are being made to involve industries for taking up the three test systems/assay for large scale production.

Central Fund for Establishment of Sub-Centres, PHCs and CHCs in Tribal Areas of Gujarat

3283. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided Central Fund for the establishment of Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in Tribal areas of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and number of centres established during the said period, district-wise;

(c) whether such centres have been established in all the tribal dominated areas of the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) The Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres are established and maintained by the State Government under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme. After 1990 on grant was given by the Central Government for opening additional sub-centres. (b) Centre does not maintain district-wise details.

(c) and (d) As per the available information 1929 sub-centres, 227 Primary Health Centres and 37 Community Health Centres are functioning in the tribal areas of Gujarat.

Blatant violation of Legislation on Health Warnings to Smokers

3284. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cigarette Companies are blatantly defying the legislation on Health warnings to smokers by a massive compaign of glossy hoardings and advertisements in which the warnings are virtually illegible; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to see that the health of the nation, particularly younger people is not jeopardised in this fashion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The minimum size of the lettering and the languages in which the warning has to be printed